

Tick Identification and Testing in Michigan

Ticks may carry diseases that cause illness in humans and animals in Michigan. Therefore, if you find a tick feeding on a person or a domestic animal, you may want it:

- a) Identified to determine if there is a risk of tick-borne illness
- b) Screened for the presence of disease causing organisms

Michigan's five most common ticks can be [seen here](#). Not all ticks or tick species carry disease agents. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides tick identification at no charge to Michigan citizens. Ticks that are submitted from people that are identified as blacklegged ticks (formerly deer tick) and are alive will be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Community Health Bureau of Laboratories for Lyme disease screening at no cost. Ticks that are dead when they are received, or are from animals (dog, cat, horse, etc.) may be forwarded to the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health for testing at a charge (\$55) to the submitter. The testing performed on the tick will depend on the species of tick.

For more information about ticks and tick-borne diseases, see our ["Ticks and Your Health"](#) brochure.

Tick Submission Kit (Recommended):

As part of an effort to streamline public tick submission and testing, we have developed a kit for submitting ticks to the State of Michigan. The kit consists of a screw cap plastic vial, a self-addressed, padded return envelope, a submission form, instructions for submission, and the Ticks and Your Health brochure.

The kit is available **at no charge** to the public, local health departments, healthcare facilities, and veterinary clinics, and can be ordered via the [Communicable Disease Division's publication order form](#).



For prompt tick submission without using the Michigan Tick Submission Kit:

- If the tick is alive, place it in a small container with a small piece of paper towel moistened with drop of water
- If the tick is dead, place it in a small, watertight container filled with water or alcohol.
- Complete the [Tick Identification and Testing Form](#) completely, and indicate whether or not you would like the tick forwarded to Michigan State University for testing. If you choose to have the tick forwarded for testing, enclose a personal check for \$55 (payable to MSU-DCPAH). Print the form.
- Send the container with the tick along with the submission form in a padded envelope to the below address:
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division
Insect and Rodent Management Program
P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI, 48909
(517) 284-5658
- On the outside of the envelope write "FRAGILE" or "HANDLE WITH CARE" to help prevent damage to the tick when shipped.